VALLEY FREE PRESS

THE LEHIGH VALLEY'S
GAY & LESBIAN OPINION & NEWSPAPER

VOL. 5 NO. 8 NOVEMBER 2002

VFP EDITOR PATRICIA SULLIVAN SHAKES HANDS WITH ED RENDELL

RENDELL WINS FOR PA GOVERNOR

DESPITE DISAPPOINTING NATIONAL ELECTION RESULTS, MOST PA-GALA ENDORSED CANDIDATES IN THE LEHIGH VALLEY WON THEIR RACES, INCLUDING DENT, BOSCOLA, MANN, SAMUELSON, ROONEY, BROWNE, FREEMAN AND GRUCELLA. UNFORTUNATELY O'BRIEN, MAZA AND MULLEN LOST.

GAY MEN'S CHORUS CONCERT

LEHIGH UNIVERSITY & CEDAR CREST COLLEGE

JOIN LAFFAYETTE, MUHLENBERG AND MORAVIAN IN OFFERING DOMESTIC PARTNER BENEFITS for same-sex partners of faculty and staff. The addition of Lehigh and Cedar Crest means all Lehigh Valley Private Colleges offer DP Benefits. Read more on page 7

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF THE LEHIGH VALLEY

MCCLV is moving to its new location at Merchant's Square, Rm. 208, 1901 S. 12th St, Allentown and is scheduled to hold its first worship service there on Christmas Eve at 10pm. The entire community is invited to the open house which will begin at 8pm and the service afterward.

KINDRED SPIRITS IS BACK

K.S. is a support and social group of women who love women, which meets regularly outside the bar scene. New members are welcome. Meetings are at 7pm at 7 Senses Health Center, 960 Broadway, Fountain Hill, every Friday except the first Friday of the month. For more info: email <sevensenses2@entermail.net>.

PA STATE HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION URGES LEGISLATURE

TO INCLUDE "SEXUAL ORIENTATION AND GENDER IDENTITY" IN STATE LEGISLATION

On Oct. 28, at a meeting in Allentown, the PA State Human Relations Commission passed a statement (6 to 3) in favor of legislation adding sexual orientation and gender identity to the PA Human Relations Act, the PA Fair Educational Opportunities Act, and the Ethnic Intimidation Act. This groundbreaking effort was spearheaded by Stephen A. Glassman, AIA, a recently appointed member of the PHRC, and the only openly gay political appointee ever nominated by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate to sit on a permanent Commonwealth board or commission. Glassman is also the Co-Chair of SPARC, the Statewide Pennsylvania Rights Coalition.

COMMUNITY MOURNS RAYMOND ORTIZ

Raymond Ortiz (A.K.A. Mona Moody) of Easton, died on Monday October 14, in Easton Hospital after a brief illness.

He was a co-founder of "The House of Mascara," an organization of female illusionists from the Lehigh Valley and adopted the stage name "Mona Moody." In November 2001, Mona Moody was crowned Miss Stonewall and later became host of a weekly variety show at the Stonewall Bar in Allentown.

Ray Ortiz was active in AIDS awareness and held several fundraising events and benefit shows in support of FACT, PRIDE LV, Northeastern PA Gay and Lesbian Hispanic Association and other local LV and Bucks County organizations. In September 2002, he was a judge at the FACT Summer Games at Rainbow Mountain. He also served on the board of PRIDE LV. Read more on page 7.

PLANET Parenthood

by Carolyn Lewis

I thought it might be interesting and beneficial to give Alyssa (age 14) an opportunity to share what it's like being the daughter of a lesbian. Here is what she had to say:

When I was 9 years old, my mother told me she was gay. I saw something in her face - fear. I was confused by that fear. Was she afraid that I wouldn't love her anymore? I think we both had our questions that day, by now I think we have them answered. Carolyn isn't quite like a second mother, no one can be my mother except my mom. She's more like a nice aunt that I get to see every day. Devin and Hunter are as close to a little brother and sister that I could possibly get. We argue, we laugh, and we play.

It's hard to live successful lives in a society like ours. It's hard to go to school everyday and hear people tell mean jokes about lesbian and gay people. It's even harder to think of what they would say if I told them my mother was a lesbian. I try to imagine that they would be great about it and really excepting, but then I remember the looks they give me when I say people don't "choose" to be gay or that people aren't gay with someone, they're just gay.

What's bad about that is that I have go to school with these people, some of them are my friends. Someday I'll work with the same kind of closed minds. Maybe it's wrong to be friends with them, maybe it's wrong not to tell them, but all I know now is that I can't judge them for believing the things they do when that's all they've ever been taught. There's always going to be hate in this world whether it's directed at a specific race, religion, or orientation. Hopefully some of those people will someday realize that everyone deserves to be treated as what they are: human beings. Their differences don't warrant acts of hate, displays of meanness, or anything that's just plain cruel.

I know that I'm not perfect. I just wish that all of those people would realize that they're not perfect either. My mom may be the worst kind of person this world has to offer in the eyes of some people, but in my eyes she's taught me the greatest thing she possibly could: To believe in yourself, because if you can't, you can't expect anyone else to either.

PFLAG SCHEDULE

The PFLAG LV (Parents, Family and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) meeting, Nov. 5, will include the election of officers. The December meeting, 12/3/02, will feature Kay Haring, sister of artist Keith Haring. PFLAG LV meets monthly at Allentown's First Presbyterian Church (Cedar Crest Blvd. and Tilghman St.) on first Tuesdays at 7:00 pm., in Room 115. Contact: pflag@fast.net or (610) 967-5219 for more information. There are also PFLAG meetings in Reading, Pottsville and Monroe County:

November 2, 2002	Monroe County Meeting
November 5, 2002	Allentown Meeting
November 19, 2002	Reading Meeting
November 21, 2002	Pottsville Meeting
December 3, 2002	Allentown Meeting
December 7, 2002	Monroe County Meeting
December 17, 2002	Reading Meeting

GLSEN

The Gay Lesbian and Straight Education Network of the Lehigh Valley will combine its meeting for December with PFLAG LV for the presentation by Kay Haring. To contact GLSEN: 610-867-6641, <csbarron21@aol.com>. GLSEN's regular meetings are at 7:00 pm in rooms 108-109, Seeger Student Union, Muhlenberg College.

RAGS TO RICHES TAKE THE FIRST STEP

by Denise McKelvey

Dear Denise, I'm a single individual. For several years, I have continued to struggle with ongoing debt. Can you suggest anything to fix this problem? Signed, **Still Floundering**

Dear Still Floundering, Money management can be a difficult task. Many individuals live beyond their means. Credit cards can seem like ready money. Here are six simple rules, which can help you stay out of debt.

Spend less than you make. --This seems simple, but it's essential. If you don't have the cash to pay for your new purchase today-and still pay your rent at the end of the month...don't buy it.

Distinguish between Bad Debt and OK Debt -- OK debt has an interest rate well under 10 percent-preferably with some tax advantages to boot. Ideally, the thing you bought with borrowed funds will appreciate in value. Things like home mortgages and student loans are examples of OK debt. Automobile loans are borderline,they satisfy the low-rate requirement, but autos almost never appreciate in value. Bad debt is everything else from the high interest credit card rates to visiting a loan shark.

Choose your credit card wisely -- Pick one major credit card whose features include a low annual interest rate and no annual fees, and stick with it. We all have plenty of cards, which we never use. Pick up a scissors and destroy the temptation.

Gather the latest bills from all "bad debt" accounts -- Determine what your minimum payment amount is on all of the cards combined. Once you know what you must pay every month on each card, you can then focus on the card which has the highest interest rate. Reduce your debt on the card with the highest interest rate as soon as possible by paying as much as possible of its bill each month. Continue to reduce the debt on that card until it is eliminated. Be sure to pay at least the minimum on your cards, it won't get you out of debt, but it will prevent you from negatively effecting your credit rating. This, of course, will be paramount when applying for a future mortgage or auto loan.

Ask for a lower rate -- Contact your credit card company and ask for a lower rate. You may suggest that you can find a better rate elsewhere by transferring your account balance to another company. Before you transfer this balance, you wanted to give your existing card company an opportunity to compete. What are YOU willing to do for me? Remember, the company wants to keep your business and they are authorized to give you a lower rate, if you ask.

Don't loan money to friends -- If you do, consider it a gift. You may never see that money again. Determine if it is worth losing a friendship over it.

Denise McKelvey is a Financial Advisor for American Express Financial Advisors Inc. located at 5000 Tilghman Street, Suite 157 in Allentown PA 18104. Please mail your questions or send e-mail to <Denise.M.McKelvey@AEXP.com> Information provided within this column may not be appropriate for your specific financial situation.

PRIDE ELECTIONS

PrideLV is pleased to announce its newly elected board members: Steve Corbesero, John Early, Mark Gable, Brenda Hoelman, Lenora Johnson, Gary Lee Schaefer, Paul A. Willistein & Terry Worthington. Board members returning to serve the second year of their terms are: Allyson Diane Hamm, Susan Baker, and Arlene Baron. The officers elected by the board, are: Brenda Hoelman (President), Arlene Baron (VP), Gary Lee Schaefer (Treasurer) & Terry Worthington (Secretary).

Pride welcomes its new board & gives thanks to those who served this past year. Pride also wishes the best of luck to those moving on to other ventures. The next board meeting will be held at 8 pm at the FACT office on Wed., Dec. 4.

HOT NEWS

GLORA SCHEDULE

The Gay and Lesbian Organization of Reading and Allentown: Mark your calenders and plan to join old friends and new for dinner at the Bower's Hotel to celebrate GLORA'S 13th anniversary on Dec. 8. To make reservations or for more information on this and other GLORA social events write GLORA at: GLORA PO BOX 1952, Allentown, PA 18015-1952, or email: <GLORAinPA@aol.com>.

LONG TIME GAY ACTIVIST DIES

The GLBT community is saddened by the recent death of pioneer of the modern gay rights movement, Harry Hay. Hay founded The Mattachine Society in the 1950s, which was one of the earliest homosexual groups and one of the first groups to fight the police entrapment of gay males.

In the 1960's Hay helped organize the first "gay pride" parade in Los Angeles. He was also chair of the L.A. Committee to Fight the Exclusion of Homosexuals from the Armed Forces and chair of the Southern California Gay Liberation Front.

Hay and his life partner, John Burnside, also launched the Radical Faeries counterculture movement in 1979, which honored the distinctiveness and individuality of gay and lesbian people.

OVOM FILM

The Allentown Health Bureau and FACT are presenting a FREE screening of HIV/AIDS: 20 Years Later. It will be shown on the first floor of The School of Nursing @ 17th and Chew (across from the hospital) on Tuesday, December 3. A reception starts the evening at 6pm with the documentary to follow at 7pm. This is a locally made film created by OVOM productions and is offered to help promote awareness and tolerance of those living with HIV/AIDS.

PRIDE FILM FOR NOVEMBER

A Lehigh Valley Pride Film Night is sheduled for Saturday, November 16th at 7:00 PM. Location: TBA. Check www.pridelv.org for more information.

GLOSS EVENTS

Last month, the GLOSS (The Gay & Lesbian Organized Sport Society) organized National Coming Out Day Dance was a huge success with over 80 people attending the event at the Cetronia Fire Hall. The event benefited Pride of the Lehigh Valley.

Future GLOSS dances will be planned. The organization continues to seek a space for a "Partner Dance Class" to meet. For future information on events and regular GLOSS activities see the GLOSS website:http://www.gloss.org/ or call the GLOSS hotline: 610.434.2966.

GLOSS members attended the Gay Games in Sydney Australia and VFP hopes to have a recap interview in the next issue.

FACT SNOWBALL DEC 1

The 16th Annual FACT (Fighting AIDS Continuously Together) Snowball will take place at the Clarion Hotel, 900 Hamilton Street in Allentown, on December 1. Cocktails at 6pm. Award Presentations at 7pm. Dinner at 7:30pm. The cost is $55 per person, "Black-tie invited," cash bar. There will be a silent auction until 10pm, and entertainment will be provided by Stevie Z, Lucky 7 and Mary G. Please RSVP by Nov. 25. For further information call 610-820-5510.

TRANSGENDER DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

The fourth annual Transgender Day of Remembrance will be held Nov. 20 to honor transgender people lost to hate violence over the past year. Vigils will be held across the United States and Canada to raise public awareness of hate crimes against transgender people.

OVOM ARTICLE

An article titled 20 Years Later, By Lenora Dannelke was included in the magazine Social Worker Times. It covered the recent work and film by emergency department social worker Stephen Libby, MSW, LSW, who promotes awareness and tolerance of underrepresented populations through his documentaries.

GAY VICTIMS, GAY HEROES

To access a moving tribute to the gay victims and heroes of September 11, log on to: <http://911digitalarchive.org/websites/details/230>.

THEATER OUTLET

The Theater Outlet opening production, (the mysteriously funny) **FNU LNU** by Obie winner Mac Wellman, will be at Theatre Outlet for a special 2 week run, from November 7-16.

The **Box Office** staff is delighted to announce that this season will see the Outlet accepting Visa, Mastercard, American Express, and Discover for more convenient ticket payment.

For more on T.O. Mainstage Season Valley premieres, auditions, and all exciting new programming, please see the Theater Outlet web site at www.theatre outlet.org. For more info on the above, or to make reservations, call Theatre Outlet at 610-820-9270 or email theatreo@aol.com.

FACT MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The FACT Annual General Membership Meeting will be held on Monday, November 18, at 7pm at the FACT office, 245 N. 12th Street, Allentown. The agenda for the meeting will be the election of officers for 2003, the re-election of board members 2003, the election of board members and the approval of the Budget. All members of FACT are invited to attend.

ACCO♀

ACCO, A CHORUS CELEBRATING WOMEN presents the Annual Winter Solstice Concert. Music from various world cultures unites this celebration of the season of Light. At: Christ Lutheran Church, 13th & Hamilton Sts, Allentown. Dec. 21 8 p.m. Tickets: $12 adults; $9 seniors, groups; $6 students. 610-434-5074.

STEVIE Z APPEARANCES

Come out and hear Stevie Z the piano man: December 7 & 28 -- Brick Tavern Inn in Quakertown from 6:30-9:30PM. Reservations are requested - call (215) 538-0865. November 27 (Wednesday) -- Mooselounge/Stonewall from 9PM-Midnite. Come celebrate pre-Thanksgiving with your family. Saturday, November 16 -- Stevie will be accompanying the LVGMC in their fall concert at Wesley Church, Bethlehem - 8PM. December, 20 (Friday) -- Mooselounge/Stonewall from 9PM-Midnight. This will be the second annual Christmas Music Sing-Along.Carols, Holiday songs - all sorts of things to sing and have a great time. Half of all Stevie Z's tips will go to Dolores Berry Minestries.

CALENDAR 4

A[illegible] A Chorus Celebrating Women,
AIDS Outreach-112 N. 5th St. Allentown, PA 610.435.8424
AIDSWALK- AIDSWALK Lehigh Valley - 610.974.8701 www.regiononline.com/lvaids
ASC- AIDS Service Center 610.974.8701
BMA- Bucks/Montgomery Alliance for Gay and Lesbian Concerns 215-529-0360
B&N- Barnes and Noble Gay&Lesbian Book Club, White Hall store, Monthly, 7:00pm
BEARS.-1st Saturdays Monthly, 8pm, at the Stonewall, Moose Lounge 610-814-6916,Mtnbear@fast.net.
CIVIC and 19th St. Theater, 527 N 19th St, 610-432-8943, <.civictheater,com>
Enigma Players--qacres@prolog.net
equal@agere- email: equal@agere.com
FACT- Fighting AIDS Continuously Together 610.820.5519
GLEE at Air Products
GLASS-at Lehigh Univ., 610.758.3469
GLISN- at Dun & Bradstreet, <vagranthollow.com/GLISN/>
GLORA- Gay and Lesbian Organization of Reading and Allentown (Social gatherings, various dates) Newsletter- The Tassle. Write to: P.O. Box 1952, Allentown PA18105-1952, email-GLORAinPA@AOL.COM
GLOSS - Gay and Lesbian Organized Sports Society, P.O.Box 21862 Lehigh Valley, PA 18002 610.434.2966.
GLSEN-Gay, Lesbian, Straight, Education Network, 610-867-6641, csbarron21@aol.com Meetings, at 7:00 pm in rooms 108-109 of the Seeger Student Union, Muhlenberg College
GMLV- Gay Men of the Lehigh Valley, 2nd Saturdays Monthly 7pm, 610.954.7775
HAVEN GLBT Youth Group of the UUC LV - call:610-868-215, email: havenyouthgroup@hotmail.com or zinnes@fast.net
HMFF-Hope Ministry Family Fellowship, Sundays, 11 am, Open Space Gallery, 931 Hamilton St. 610-791-0716
Integrity- Lesbian and Gay Episcopalians Family & Friends meet squarterly for fellowship and fun. 610-758-8642 or integritybeth@mindspring.com"
KS-Kindred Spirits- Support, discussion, and social group for lesbians and bisexual women Contact : Chris at 610-868-0248, or Donna at 610.997.00607
LVGMC -Lehigh Valley Gay Men's Chorus, email:lvgmc@hotmail.com, <www.lvgmc.org> phone 610-366-3320, rehearsals:: Wesley United Methodist Church, 2540 Center Street, Bethlehem
MCC - Metropolitian Community office-424 Center St. Bethlehem, 6 pm Sundays , 610.954.7775
NCC- Northampton Community College Gay Lesbian and Bisexual Student Union, call 610.861.5541(#1386) or 882-2531
19th St/Civic Theatre- 610.432.8943
Out There- Students at Cedar Crest College
OVOM-LV Documentary Film Org.
PA-GALA - PA Gay and Lesbian Alliance for Political Action, (Candidate Info Booklet, & Political Lobbying) For membership: send $20 to: P.O.Box 20825 Lehigh Valley 18002 610.432.5449 pa-gala.org
PFLAG - LV Parents Families& Friends of Lesbians and gays, 1st Tues. 1st Pres. Church Allentown 610.967.5219 <www.users.fast.net/~pflag>
Pride - Pride of the Lehigh Valley, (Pride Festival) 610.770.6200, email: <lvpride@hotmail.com>, <www.pridelv.org>
QuEST - Student group at Lafayette College Farion Center Box 429 Easton, PA, <QuEST Lafayette@hotmail.com>

NOVEMBER 2002

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 WDIY GLOSS BEARS PFLAG M GMLV Stevie Z
3	4 RAA GLSEN	5 Election Day LVGMC GLOSS PFLAG A	6 HAVEN	7 T.O. RAA ACCO GLOSS	8 KS	9 GLOSS GMLV Stevie Z
10 MCC	11 RAA	12 GLOSS LVGMC	13 HAVEN	14 ACCO RAA GLOSS	15 KS	16 Gay Men's Chorus T.O.
17 Bingo HMFF UUCLV GLOSS MCC	18 RAA MCC FACT Pride Movie	19 PFLAG R LVGMC GLOSS	20 HAVEN Transgender Remeberence Day	21 PFLAG P RAA ACCO GLOSS	22 KS	23 MCC Anniversry Dance GLOSS WDIY
24 Bingo HMFF UUCLV GLOSS MCC	25 RAA	26 LVGMC GLOSS	27 Stevie Z HAVEN	28 Thanksgiving	29 Hanukkah KS GLOSS	30 Hanukkah WDIY

DECEMBER 2002

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 FACT Snowball	2 RAA	3 LVGMC GLOSS PFLAG A Ovom	4 HAVEN	5 ACCO RAA GLOSS	6	7 WDIY GLOSS BEARS PFLAG M
8 UUCLV GLORA Dinner GLOSS	9 RAA GLSEN	10 GLOSS LVGMC MCC	11 HAVEN	12 ACCO RAA GLOSS	13 KS	14 GLOSS GMLV
15 MCC GLOSS UUCLV Bingo HMFF	16 RAA MCC	17 PFLAG R GLOSS LVGMC	18 HAVEN	19 ACCO RAA PFLAG P GLOSS	20 Stevie Z KS	21 GLOSS WDIY ACCO
22 Bingo HMFF UUCLV GLOSS MCC	23 RAA	24 MCC Open House & Service	25 Christmas	26 RAA ACCO GLOSS	27 KS	28 Stevie Z GLOSS WDIY
29 Bingo HMFF UUCLV GLOSS MCC	30 RAA	31 NEW YEARS				

JANUARY 2003

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		NEW YEARS	1 HAVEN	2 GLOSS RAA	3	4 PFLAG M GLOSS BEARS Dance
5 MCC UUCLV	6 RAA	7 GLOSS PFLAG A MCC LVGMC	8 HAVEN	9 RAA GLOSS	10 KS	11 GMLV MCC
12 MCC Bingo	13 GLSEN RAA	14 LVGMC GLOSS PFLAG R	15 HAVEN	16 RAA GLOSS PFLAG P	17 KS	18 WDIY GLOSS
19 MCC WDIY UUCLV HMFF Bingo	20 MCC RAA	21 GLOSS LVGMC MCC	22 HAVEN	23 RAA GLOSS	24 KS	25 WDIY GLOSS
26 Bingo MCC WDIY HMFF UUCLV	27 RAA	28 GLOSS LVGMC	29 HAVEN	30 RAA GLOSS	31 KS	

Quakers-Lehigh Valley Friends Meeting-Route 512 1/2 mi. North of Rte 22 Bethlehem, PA. Worship at 9:30 am. (610)691-3411.
RAA- Rainbow AA meetings, Mon. & Thurs. Episcopal Church, 16th & Turner Atown.
Ren- Renaissance Transgendered Assoc., P.O.Box 157 Trexlertown 18087 - 610-814-0530/0531
Rainbow Space - Muhlenberg College Organization 610.821.3244
Reading P-FLAG- 610.488.7533or 670.8029
Safe Space- At Lehigh U. 610.758.3469
Saint John's Lutheran Church- A welcoming, gay affirming church, 32 S. 5th st. Allentown 610.435.1587
Softball-(Women's) call Diamonz, 610.865.1028
T.O. - Theatre Outlet-29 Nth 9th St, Allentown, 610-820-9270.
Unity- 26 N. 3rd St. Emmaus, 767-4417
UUCLV - Unitarian Universalist Church of the Lehigh Valley, 424 Center Street, Bethlehem, 18018 610.866.7652.
VFP - Valley Free Press 610.432.5449, liztrish@aol.com
VYH - Valley Youth House for emotionally troubled GLBT youth 610.432.6481
WDIY - WDIY - 88.1 fm 93.9 fm Saturday 7:00 pm This Way Out, Assorted Women 7:30 pm. 610-694-8100.88.

SPECIAL UPCOMING EVENTS:

FACT BINGO@ DIAMONZ- SUNDAYS
MCC BLESSING OF RELATIONSHIPS PLANNING MTG - THIRD MONDAYS
GLBT YOUTH GROUP HAVEN - WEDNESDAYS
LV BEARS - 1ST SATURDAYS
GAY MEN-LV - 2ND SATURDAYS
GLOSS VOLLEYBALL -TUES
GLOSS TENNIS - SUNDAYS
GLOSS RACQUETBALL -TUES & SATS
MCC BOOK STUDY 2ND & 4TH TUES

NOV 7-16 - TO PLAY FNU LNU
NOV 8 - KINDRED SPIRITS
NOV 15 - KINDRED SPIRITS
NOV 16 - GAY MENS CHORUS
NOV 18 - FACT ELECTION MEETING
NOV 18 - PRIDE FILM NIGHT
NOV 19 - PFLAG READING
NOV 20 - TRANSGENDER REMEMBERENCE DAY
NOV 21 - PLFAG POTTSVILLE
NOV 22 - KINDRED SPIRITS
NOV 27 - STEVIE Z 2 MOOSELOUNGE
NOV 29 - KINDRED SPIRITS
DEC 1 - FACT SNOWBALL
DEC 3 - PFLAG ALLENTOWN
DEC 3 - OVOM FILM
DEC 7 - PFLAG MONROE
DEC 7 - STEVIE Z @ MOOSELOUNGE
DEC 8 - GLORA ANNIV DINNER
DEC 13 - KINDRED SPIRITS
DEC 17 - PFLAG READING
DEC 19 - PFLAG POTTSVILLE
DEC 20 - KINDRED SPIRITS
DEC 20 - STEVIE Z @ MOOSELOUNGE
DEC 21 - ACCO SOLSTICE CONCERT
DEC 24 - MCC OPEN HOUSE @ CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE
DEC 27 - KINDRED SPIRITS
DEC 28 - STEVIE Z @ BRICK TAVERN
JAN 4 - PFLAG MONROE
JAN 7 - PFLAG ALLENTOWN
JAN 10 - KINDRED SPIRITS
JAN 17 - KINDRED SPIRITS
JAN 21 - PFLAG READING
JAN 23 - PFLAG POTTSVILLE
JAN 24 - KINDRED SPIRITS
JAN 31- KINDRED SPIRITS

INFORMATION SUBJECT TO CHANGE CALL TO CONFIRM! TO POST INFO: 610-432-5449 EMAIL: LIZTRISH@AOL.COM

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF THE LEHIGH VALLEY

A number of recognitions were presented to MCCLV's faithful and generous congregation at the MCCLV Anniversary Banquet in October. Receiving "Rainbow Service Recognition," were: Nadine A., Barb B., EarlBeltz, Wendy B., Cathy Burgi, Joe C., Sue Carpenter, Sarah D., Manuel D., Heather E., Jim E., Elaine E., Mike E., Tom E., Sandy E., Jim F., Lynn A., Sally G., Kay Gilbreath, Terry G., Les G., Brenda Hoelman, Bill H., John H., Margo K., PJ K., DJ Landis, Sandy L., Deb L., Russ L., Kevin L., Anthony L., Emma M., Kevin Motroni, Richard O., Dale P., Steve R., Diane R., Dawn R., Cris S., Donnie Snyder, Karen S., Mary S., Vanessa T., Gretchen V., Travis W., Ed Verba, Anthony Y. and Steve Z.

The Teddy Bear Care Recognition for the MCCLV congregant who most exhibits a willingness to touch others with a generous spirit of caring, went to Kay Gilbreath.

The Servant Spirit Award, given to an MCCLV congregant who has served in the worship services and in the Worship ministry. went to DJ Landis for her countless hours of dedicated service.

The Spirit of Courage Recognition, presented to a person in the Lehigh Valley who has actively championed the Rainbow Community with an enthusiastic spirit and courage went to Arlene Baron.

The Shepherd's Staff Recognition, given to the MCCLV congregant who is "steady" in their lifting up of the church community. went to Dale P.

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presented the MCCLV congregation with a framed award of appreciation for their indiviual roles in over-coming the anti-rights referendum petition. A special comemoration was presented to Rev. Beth Goudy for her extensive work on the civil rights effort.

CIVIL UNION ANNOUNCEMENTS

To have your Vermont Civil Union listed here, or to get more information on how to get a Vermont Civil Union, email VFP at:<liztrish@aol.com>.

MCC 'S NFTMD CELEBRATION PLANNED

MCCLV's National Freedom to Marry Day Celebration is coming up on February 8, 03. at the Ice House on Sand Island in Bethlehem. It will consist of both a blessing of relationships of which all couples of the GLBTA community are welcome to participate, and also a special same-sex marriage ceremony. Following the ceremony will be a reception and dance. The event is free, all are welcome. Couples who wish to participate in the same-sex marriage ceremony should e-mail the church at mcclehighvalley@yahoo.com or call 610-954-7775.

MCC'S PIANO FUND

There is now a "Donate" button on the "Spotlight On" page of the MCCLV website (mcclv.org) to allow for contributions by credit or debit cards to the MCCLV Piano Fund.

MCC ON THE MOVE

The time for MCCLV's move to its new space is approaching quickly. Help is needrd on important projects. Volunteers with all levels of construction skill are sought. Work hours are now: Every Wednesday: 5PM - 10PM, Every Thursday: 3PM - 10PM, Every Saturday: 9AM - 5PM, Every Sunday: 11AM - 3PM. Jobs include: Spackling, Floor Cleaning, Sanding, Carpet Shampooing, Painting & Small construction items. Contact MCC if you wish to pitch in.

RANTS & RAVES BY STEPHEN T. LIBBY

Since this is the Thanksgiving issue and therefore kicks off the holiday season I would like to use this space to acknowledge those things for which I am truly grateful.

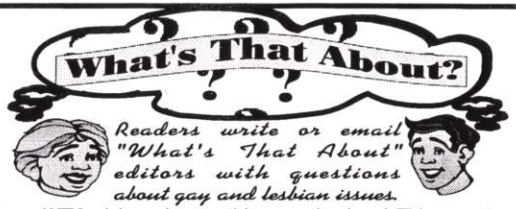
First -- Seedless grapes and watermelons (does anyone really purchase them with seeds anymore? and why would you? stubbornness?)

Second -- Will & Grace. Still the highest laughs to joke ratio on television. Sex and the City-still terrif, but the baby has the gals a little too grounded. (W&G will get beyond their baby "thing", and dontcha love Karen's 'do?!)

Third -- Gay Life. We just have it better than the norm. Better taste, cuter members, we sure know how to throw a party and decorate (except me, you can ask my friends, I have no clue about decorating.) We pick the best straight people for friends and sometimes we get lucky and they want to help advance our cause.

Fourth -- Living in the USA. Sure, some countries already have gay rights and the right to marry. Some never will. They don't have a choice. We do. We can vote. I am confident someday we will have those rights, but it will take some time...and the help of some of those friends I was telling you about earlier. What a coincidence! One of them is running for governor of PA. His name is Ed Rendell, and he's been courting us like Sam the quarterback begging Joe, the gay cheerleader to the prom. C'mon, let's make Sam's dreams come true. They're a cute couple. Can't ya just hear Joe, "Sam, Sam he's our man!!!" So, on Tuesday exercise your right to vote. And remember a vote for Rendell would be Swell!!!!! Thanks, Steve

Editor: You got it Steve!



Dear WTA: I heard something on the local TV new about Ricardo Montero, what's that about? **Signed Amazed by Hypocrites.**

Dear Amazed,

Judging from your signature I'd guess you already know about Montero's previous shenanigans, but for those who don't, let's recap...

Montero publishes El Torero, a local Spanish language newspaper that he often uses to present his very conservative ultra-moralistic views. Montero wrote several anti-gay editorials and let other gay bashing, anti-gay referendum articles that equated gay people with child abusing criminals, appear in his paper as well. He also signed the anti-gay referendum petition which would have removed housing and employment rights from GLBT people in Allentown.

Leaders of the Latino community and the GLBTA community had a special meeting with the Morning Call to ask them to stop circulating Montero's paper. (Editions of El Torero were sold bi-monthly along with Friday Morning Calls that were in city vending boxes). The Morning Call did finally decide to stop the circulation (citing "businesses reasons), and also referred in an editoria l to Montero's articles as, "gay-bashing."

One of the reasons the Morning Call seems to have come to that decision was undoubtedly due to the fact that last year Montero was arrested and ultimately pleaded guilty to what the local TV news referred to as "unlawful contact and indecent assault with under age girls." Among other things, the Morning Call reported that Montero was involved with arranging for a 16 year old girl to be photographed top- less.

Since there was another person involved with some of the charges, who has not yet gone to trial, Montero has still not been sentenced and is out on bail.

So here's the latest...on November 7, Montero was arrested at 10th and Turner Streets in Allentown for (allegedly soliciting a prostitute who turned out to be an undercover cop. His lawyer was quoted as saying that people shouldn't jump to the conclusion that Montero is guilty because sometimes cops in these situations engage in entrapment.

Sure, OK, I'm willing to concede that there are times when the police entrap men in "John" situations. The best thing would be not to condemn anyone's morals **(especially not an entire minority group of thousands of people you don't even know, who have never done you any harm and who are entitled to the same housing and employment rights as everyone else!!!!!!)**.

P.R.C.A. SIGNS ON

The Puerto Rican Cultural Alliance, which coordinates the Puerto Rican Parade in Allentown and other cultural events, has contacted the Valley Free Press to ask to be listed in the list of organizations that supports the Anti-Discrimination Statement. The list of organizations and statement are on page 8.

FOR LEGAL INFO ON 2ND PARENT ADOPTION

For information on 2nd parent adoption or if your lawyer has questions call The Center for Lesbian and Gay Civil Rights in Philadelphia toll free at 1-866-LGBT-LAW.

Valley Free Press does not discriminate on the basises listed in the anti-discrimination statement on page 8 , and asks that organizations or individuals which request VFP to publish information about their events maintain a similar policy.

SCOTT SAYS

By Scott Laubner

VIVA DIVAS

After watching Divas Las Vegas on TV it made me think of the Divas of stage and screen of yesteryear. Chipmunk Readers, below are some of their best lines. Can you identify which Diva said them, and in the first eight, name the movie and year? Answers below.

1. "Toto, I have a feeling we're not in Kansas anymore."
2. "Fasten your seat belts. It's going to be a bumpy night."
3. "All right, Mr. De Mille. I'm ready for my close-up."
4. "Don't f**k with me, fellas! This ain't my first time at the rodeo!"
5. "It's not easy having a good time. Even smiling makes my face ache."
6. "Too much of a good thing can be wonderful."
7. "It looks like a flamingo threw up in here! "
8. "Well, if I can be of any help at all, you are in worse trouble than I thought."
9. "If I had to live my life again, I'd make the same mistakes, only sooner."
10. "Of course life is hard. After all, it kills you."
11. "When I want your opinion, I'll give it to you."

HAVEN YOUTH GROUP

HAVEN is the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and/or Transgender (GLBT) Youth Group hosted by the Unitarian Universalist Church of the Lehigh Valley(UUCLV). Meetings are open to GLBT youth, their Allies and those questioning their sexual orientation. HAVEN is about to celebrate its one year anniversary.

HAVEN has been successfully operating a program serving a 14-20 age group and is excited to have recently expanded the program to include a new group for 18-24 year olds. Weekly meetings are held Wednesdays, from 7 to 9 PM at the UUCLV, 424 Center Street, Bethlehem, PA. Although occasionally the two age groups may combine for workshops or similar activities, they generally meet separately and operate independently of each other. Each group plans its own separate program and activities.

If you plan a Lehigh Valley (or surrounding area) event that is suitable for GLBT youth ages 14 to 20, OR ages 18 to 24, OR both, - please notify Haven so it can be posted on the Haven members-only website (send information to gailuhl@yahoo.com). Haven contact information: 610-868-215, email: havenyouthgroup @hotmail.com or zinnes@fast.net

RAINBOW TEAM OMISSIONS

Please note that the Rainbow Team List the comes with the PA-GALA candidate guide Gay & Lesbian Vote and mentions the names of all PA-GALA contributors who donate money to the PA-GALA Rainbow Team, did not contain the names of those who so generously contributed to the fight against the anti-GLBT referendum. Since most of those contributions were not accompanied by a card to indicate how the contributor chose to be listed on the Rainbow Team list, PA-GALA board members decided to postpone that part of the contributor list until the next major mailing.

All contributors to that important effort will receive a note in the mail and will be able to indicate how (or if) they would like there name to be listed on the Rainbow Team List.

Please be assured that your contribution and the enormous contributions of time and effort of so many volunteers, was and is very greatly appreciated. The civil rights of thousands of people were kept in place by your efforts. We'll be working on this Rainbow Team list soon, please bear with us.

A VIEW FROM A DYKE

By Liz Bradbury

ELECTIONS? WELL, HERE'S SOME GOOD NEWS:

Here in the Lehigh Valley we elected most of the PA-GALA endorsed candidates. (see page 1).

We got **Rendell.** Ed Rendell has been publicly and strongly pro-gay rights for 25 years. He has the best pro-GLBT record any Governor in this state has ever had. And even though Fischer tried to "gay bait" Rendell by sending out anti-gay literature to Catholic voters, Rendell has just proved beyond a shadow of a doubt that a candidate who is pro-gay can win in a conservative state. That is very important.

PA-GALA feels that the Hate Crimes Bill will pass in the state legislature very soon. We hope that with Rendell's powers of persuasion, and the strong support of the PA Human Relations Commission (see page 1) passage of a civil rights bill similar to the one passed in Allentown, will happen in a few years. Clearly, any further effort from anti-gay organizations to repeal local laws will demonstrate the need for a state law and encourage its passage.

Nationally, a number of openly gay candidates won their races including **Tammy Baldwin, D-Wis., Barney Frank, D- Mass.,** and **Jim Kolbe, R- Ariz.**, who all won by large margins.

David Cicilline, a Democrat, handily won in the **Providence, R.I., mayoral race**, making the Ocean State's capital city (pop. 174,000) the largest municipality in the country with a gay mayor.

More good news: All three anti-gay referendum efforts to repeal pro-gay laws in US cities failed. We won in **Tacoma, Washington** and **Westbrooke, Maine**. And we won in **Ypsilanti Michigan** where local millionaire Tom Monahan, who owns the Domino's Pizza Chain, had financed the anti-gay referendum effort with piles of money. Those Ypsilantian voters still defeated the anti-gay referendum two votes to one!

Also...in **Sarasota Florida** voters passed an initiative that created an anti-discrimination ordinance that included sexual orientation and gender. This was especially surprising news because Sarasota has been known as a very conservative area.

What does all this mean?...Well first of all, don't you dare order from Domino's ever again!!! Really, no kidding, **boycott Domino's**. Every slice pays for someone to try to take GLBT rights always.

Most people just don't believe in discrimination against GLBT people any more. But be sure to understand that these pro-GLBT successes don't just happen on their own. These victories require financial support and the commitment and work of 100s of volunteers. Everyone in the community must support and become part of the grassroots groups that fight for, win and maintain these basic human rights.

The local group we have fighting for our rights is PA-GALA. If you, or the group you are part of didn't kick in at least a few hours to fight our local anti-gay referendum, then make a commitment for 2003. At the very least, renew your PA-GALA membership and make an extra contribution to the PA-GALA Rainbow Team

TRISH'S COLUMN

By Patricia Sullivan

COLLEGES GIVE BENEFITS

Lehigh University and Cedar Crest College now offer domestic same-sex partner benefits joining Moravian College, Muhlenberg College and Lafayette University. Just outside the Lehigh Valley the only local private college in the area that still does not provide benefits to same-sex domestic partners is DeSales University.

Elaine Deutsch, Vice President of Financial Administration at Cedar Crest College, told;d me that Cedar Crest College now offers medical benefits to same-sex domestic partners equivalent to those offered to married partners. Full-time employees are able to select among several medical policies and pay 20% of the cost of the policy for yourself and can now purchase medical coverage (at full cost) for a domestic partner.

Tracy Moran of Lehigh University Human Resources, confirmed that as of January 1, 2003 Lehigh University will offer the same benefits to (opposite and same sex) domestic partners of faculty and staff as to to married partners. She referred me to the Lehigh University website (www.Lehigh.edu) for information about the impressive list of benefits available to Lehigh employees. To qualify as domestic partners at Lehigh, the employee and partner must sign an affidavit declaring their committed and interdependent relationship. This is the same procedure used by opposite sex couples to declare common law marriage in Pennsylvania.

The Lehigh benefits are too numerous to list, but here are some examples: A choice of medical plans (you pay the full cost of the plan for yourself and your partner); Life insurance and you may purchase life insurance for your partner and children; Family medical leave for the birth of a child, adoption or foster care, and for care for yourself, your partner, your child, or a parent who has a serious health condition; Funeral leave in the case of the death of your partner, child, parent, sibling, or parent-in-law or sibling-in-law, aunts, uncles or grandparents: University athletic facilities are available for your partner and dependent children and the University operates a Child Care Center for children of faculty, staff, and students; Tuition benefits are available for your partner to use in a tuition exchange program at DeSales, Cedar Crest, Lafayette, and Moravian. And employees who purchase a home in the area may qualify for mortgage assistance.

The VFP congratulates Cedar Crest College and Lehigh University on their decision to provide benefits to same-sex domestic partners.

I'd also like to remind readers that none of the publicly funded colleges or universities in the Lehigh Valley - Lehigh Carbon Community College, Northampton Community College (provides domestic partner benefits to administrative staff only) or Penn State University - provide domestic partner benefits for faculty.

While it is true that these public colleges (and DeSales) are not required to give D.P. benefits, there is nothing stopping them from giving them...other than homophobia.

RAYMOND ORTIZ / MONA MOODY REMEMEBERED

Funeral Services for Ray Ortiz were held on Wednesday, October 16 in Manhattan, New York. A memorial service was held on October 27, at the Stonewall - Moose Lounge, in Allentown. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the family, in care of the Stonewall.

Raymond Ortiz -- Mona Moody remembered:

--by Allyson Diane Hamm, President of Pride LV in 2001, -- "Mona was wonderful at the 2001 LV Pride festival. She stayed calm under extreme circumstances. She filled in as the host announcer when the originally scheduled announcer wondered off. She looked elegant even thought her beautiful gown was slightly muddied (from torrential rain). She stayed until the very end of the event & remained professional the entire time. Besides helping on the day of the event, she was also very helpful in the planning stages. She helped organize the entertainment line-up & recruit other volunteer performers. It is because of her & Teri Courtney that Pride even has a Queen Pageant. She also volunteered her time & talent during several other Pride benefits. She was a great entertainer and a joy to work with. I will miss her. And for the record, Raymond was great , too."

by Arlene Baron -- FACT, President, and current Pride L.V. Vice-President, -- Raymond Ortiz was a kind and generous man. Always with a smile, and always ready to offer his talents to help others. He will be missed by all of us. Our sincere sympathy is extended to his family.

POP QUIZ

This is a re-cap of previous quizzes, do you remember...

1. About when was Sappho writing poems on Lesbos?
A.10,000 BC B. 2000 BC C. 600 BC D. 300AD

2.When Walt Whitman wrote "Captain my Captain!" Who was he talking about?

3. What is the British slang equivalent of the word faggot?

4. When scholars suggest that Emily Dickinson was bisexual, what same sex person do they suggest she was in love with? Her_____.
A. teacher B. sister-in-law
C. cousin D. minister's wife

5. About when did Gertrude meet Alice?
A. 1832 B. 1865 C. 1909 D. 1945

6. T.S. Lawrence fell in love with a man named Salim Achmed in 1911. What is the other name T.S. Lawrence is known by? Hint: It was a movie title.

7. The rainbow flag was first used in the :
A. 60s B. 70s C. 80s D. 90s

8. In the Golden Girls:
Who had a gay brother? Who had a transgender son? Who had a transgender brother?

9. Who wrote to Lorena Hickock "Hick darling, I remember...the feeling of that soft spot just northeast of the corner of your mouth against my lips...I wish I could lie down beside you tonight and take you in my arms"?

10. The Cracker Barrel boycott began in 1991 because Cracker Barrel's policy was to fire gay employees. When did the boycott end?

1.C 2. Lincoln 3. Bugger 4. B 5.C
6. Lawerence of Arabia 7.B
8. Blanche, Sophia, Dorothy 10. It hasn't

TO GET A SUBSCRIPTION TO THE VALLEY FREE PRESS JOIN PA-GALA BY SENDING $20 TO: PA-GALA, P.O. BOX 20825 LEHIGH VALLEY, PA 18002

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Columnists: Elizabeth Bradbury, Patricia Sullivan, Denise McKelvey, Ruby Zebu, Carolyn Lewis, Stephen Libby, Scott Laubner and others

We believe it would improve the quality of life in the Lehigh Valley if all people were equally protected from unfair discrimination based upon actual orperceived race,color, religion ,national origin,ancestry or place of birth, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, family status, age, disability, or use of a guide animal, in the areas of employment, housing, and public accommodation.

PA-GALA

Valley Free Press

Allentown Human Relations Commission

Safe-Space of Lehigh University

PFLAG Lehigh Valley

ACCO - A Chorus Celebrating Women

GLORA

Pride of the LV

LV Gay Men's Chorus

NCC GLBT Student Union

The Lehigh Valley Labor Party

EQUAL! at Agere

Metropolitian Community Church LV

OutThere - Cedar Crest

9th Street Shelter Allentown

LV Community Action Committee

GLEE at Air Products

FACT

AIDS Outreach

The Unitarian Universalist Church LV

GLOSS

LEPOCO

GLISN of Dun & Bradstreet

AIDS Services Center

Theatre Outlet

Integrity - Bethlehem

The Lehigh Valley Religous Society of Friends (Quakers)

Civic Theater 19th Street Theatre

The Latin Alliance

The Enigma Players

New Covenant Family Ministries

Properties of Merit

Allentown City Democratic Committee

Episcopal Diocese of Bethlehem

Puerto Rican Cultural Alliance

To add your organization to this list, call 610-432-5449 or email VFP (liztrish@aol.com).

QUOTE #1

I'd just like to say, quitting the Boy Scouts was probably one of the most painful experiences I've ever had to endure. But they (The BSA) are wrong and you are right. We are right and we have never been more right than we are right now, in this country and at this time. **--Steven Spielberg upon accepting an award from the Human Rights Campaign**

QUOTE #2

Ah, now I understand, "Americans, particularly seniors" COULD "afford to wait" from January 2001 until two weeks before the general election on November 5, 02 but not "any longer." Thanks for clearing that up and also for your prompt attention and quick response to this urgent matter, Mr. President.- **Tim Schillaci, on Bush's explaination of his recent support of lower cost generic drugs.**

QUOTE #3

"The real reason I'm praying that 'Hairspray,' the Broadway musical based on my 1988 movie, succeeds is that if it's a hit, there will be high school productions, and finally the fat girl and the drag queen will get the starring parts."
-- John Waters writing in the Aug. 11 New York Times.

QUOTE #4

"Just as attempts have been made to annihilate us, not for what we did but for who we are, how can we do the same thing to gays and lesbians?"
Rabbi Brad Bloom in Sacramento on changing his congregation to be fully supportive of gay people.

QUOTE #5

"Gays are the best neighbors. They're good-looking and fit. They fix up their houses, and even though they don't need a good school system, they are the first to get involved." **-- Asbury Park, N.J., real-estate broker Jim McGlynn to The New York Times, Sept. 6.**

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